

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2989

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 10900

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: SPECIAL BANGLADESH ENVOY TO PAKISTAN

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED UPON SHORT NOTICE TO SEE ME TONIGHT, SAYING HE WAS DOING SO AT THE REQUEST OF BHUTTO.

2. SHAHI SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE A FEW HOURS EARLIER FROM THEIR AMBASSADOR IN RANGOON, WHO HAD JUST HAS A MEETING WITH BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR KAISER AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST AFTER HIS RETURN FROM BANGKOK. KAISER TOLD THE PAK THAT WHILE IN BANGKOK HE HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS, RELAYED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, THAT HE PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO PAKISTAN ON A SECRET VISIT AS A SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT. AFTER PRESENTING WARM FELICITATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT TO BHUTTO PERSONALLY HE WAS TO INFORM BHUTTO OF THE ALARMING SITUATION THAT HAS ARISEN FOR THE SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH BY ACTIONS OF THE INDIANS, WHO HAVE ALREADY AGGRESSED AND MARCHED IN AND OCCUPIED CERTAIN AREAS OF BANGLADESH. FURTHER, THAT BANGLADESH HAD INFORMATION THAT KEWAL SINGH HAD GONE TO MOSCOW TO SOLICIT SOVIET SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION FOR OVERT INDIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN BANGLADESH.

3. KAISER SAID HIS MISSION WOULD BE TO APPRISE BHUTTO OF THE ABOVE AND ELICIT THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE

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AND LEADERS OF PAKISTAN AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT. KAISER

ALSO SAID THAT ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 23-24 AT 0130 HOURS GENERAL ZIA HAD GONE ON THE RADIO APPEALING FOR UNITY OF THE NATION IN THIS FATEFUL HOUR.

4. SHAHI SAID THAT KAISER HAD ASKED FOR PAKISTAN VISAS FOR HIMSELF AND AN ASSISTANT. HE SAID HE HAD A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MY ARRIVAL CABLED AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THE VISAS. BHUTTO HAD THEREUPON ASKED THAT I BE FULLY INFORMED.

5. I QUESTIONED SHAHI ON THE TIMING OF THE REPORTED INDIAN MOVEMENT INTO BANGLADESH, AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THIS MIGHT RELATE TO REPORTS A FEW DAYS AGO WHICH MENTIONED TRENCH DIGGINGS ALONG THE BORDER INSIDE BANGLADESH, OR WHETHER THIS WAS A NEW AND MORE RECENT EVENT. HE SAID HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING. NOT FULLY REALIZING PAKISTAN INTENTIONS TO KEEP KAISER'S VISIT A SECRET, I ASKED IF HE WAS CONCERNED THAT INDIA MIGHT TRY TO MAKE SOMETHING BIG OUT OF SUCH A VISIT. SHAHI SAID THAT BHUTTO HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THAT FACTOR, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHERS, IN DECIDING TO GO ALONG WITH KAISER'S URGENT PLEA TO VISIT PAKISTAN. HE SAID THE REQUEST WAS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING TO THEM AND THEY WONDERED IF IT WAS REALLY NECESSARY, PARTICULARLY AS THEY ALREADY HAD KAISER'S MESSAGE. (IT DOES SEEM TO US THAT KAISER IS A BIT OF A SELF STARTER WHO GETS INVOLVED IN MANY, MANY THINGS.) HE SAID AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED THE VISIT WAS "TOP SECRET" ALTHOUGH IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GET OUT OVER TIME. HE SAID ONE THING THAT BHUTTO HAD HAD TO CONSIDER, IF AND WHEN A PAK REFUSAL BECAME PUBLIC, WOULD BE A STRONG NEGATIVE PUBLIC OPINION REACTION AGAINST HIM FOR REFUSING TO RECEIVE AN ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH. I TOLD SHAHI TO THANK BHUTTO FOR KEEPING US INFORMED AND THAT I WOULD RELAY THE INFORMATION HE HAD GIVEN ME TO WASHINGTON IN A RESTRICTED CHANNEL.

6. IN THE DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, SHAHI WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT OVER THE PAST 15 DAYS THERE HAD BEEN FOUR INDIAN VIOLATIONS OF PAKISTAN AIR SPACE. THE FIRST THREE HAD BEEN ON NOVEMBER 10, 11 AND 13 IN THE  
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SIALKOT REGION. HE LET ME READ HIS MILITARY CABLES WHILE HE WAS SEARCHING FOR OTHER MATERIAL AND I LEARNED THAT THE FOURTH VIOLATION HAD BEEN YESTERDAY, BUT I CAN NOT REMEMBER THE COORDINATES. HE SAID THEY HAD SENT STRONG PROTESTS TO THE INDIANS ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. DEPARTMENT WILL WANT TO CONSIDER REPEATING THIS MESSAGE TO DACCA AND NEW DELHI.

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